iii. Regulation of trade & commerce of the wild fauna and flora.

iv. Scientific surveys through the Botanical Survey of India, zoological Survey of India and Forest Survey of India.

v. Establishment of a network of National Parks, Sanctuaries and other protected areas covering about 4% of the land area of the country.

vi. Special projects for the conservation of endangered species like the Project Tiger, Crocodile Project, Project Elephant, etc.

vii. Special programmes on Biosphere Reserves, Mangroves, Wetlands, Coral Reefs, etc.

viii. Establishment of Botanic Gardens, Preservation Plots, and Zoos and, more recently, the setting up of the Central Zoo Authority.

ix. Greater focus on forest conservation and management.

x. Ex-situ conservation of genetic resources through the National Bureaus of Plant, Animal and Fish Genetic Resources under the ICAR system.

xi. Development and application of biotechnology through programmes and activities of the Department of Biotechnology.

xii. Research and training through Universities and Research Institutions such as the Wild life Institute of India, G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Botanical Survey of India, Zoological Survey of India, etc.

xiii. Education and awareness activities for promoting conservation of biodiversity.

xiv. Participation in major Conventions and Treaties like Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (1976), Ramsar Convention (1982), Basel Convention (1989), Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1983), Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (1981), Antarctic Treaty (1983), Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982), Convention on Climate Change (1992) and Convention on Biological Diversity (1992).

xv. Following the signing of the Convention on Biological Diversity, action has also been initiated aimed at consolidating and strengthening the on going programmes and activities in consultation with the concerned government and non-governmental agencies/ organisations as well as experts.

Ozone Depletion

1052. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's refrigeration industry and environment group have shown little interest in taking steps to phase out the use of ozone-depleting Chlorafluorocarbons (CFCS), if so the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of proposals that have been received by Government so far from CFC users for funding to prepare plans for phasing out CPCs which are widely used as coolants in

airconditioners, refrigerators, blowing foams and as cleaning agents is in the electronic industry; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) So far, 13 proposals have been received, including those from the refrigeration industry in the country.

(c) A Task Force has been set up by the Department of Industrial Development, Ministry of Industry, to draw up a national strategy to comply with the objectives of the Montreal Protocol in so far as it relates to India. The Country Programme to be drawn up in consultation with the concerned industry is also under preparation, which would detail the kinds of projects which are to be posed for assistance from the Multilateral Fund, in each of the major sectors involved in the production and use of Ozone depleting substances in the country.

Report on Illicit felling of trees in Sangrur Forest Division

1053. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the inquiry into large-scale illicit felling of trees in Sangrur forest division has not been satisfactory according to a news paper reports; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken to unearth the scandal that involves unauthorised cutting of over 25,000 trees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Government of Punjab have conducted an enquiry on the report of illicit felling of trees in Sangrur Forest Division. Details of the case and action taken will be laid on the Table of the House.

Collision between Danish Oil Tanker and Japanese Ship

1054. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a collision between Danish Oil Tanker and Japanese Ship on January 21, 1993 led to spill over of huge amount of oil in the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what measures Government have taken so far to prevent the threat to the unique eco-system of the region; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that international response to combat the threat was poor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the early hours of 21st January, 1993, a collision between Danish Oil Tanker MAERSK NAVIGATOR and Japanese Sanko Honour occurred at North Sea off Sumatra in Indonesian waters. MAERSK NAVIGATOR was carrying about 300,000 tonnes of light crude oil from Oman to Japan. This oil slick drifted away to Indian waters.

(c) The following measures have been taken by the Government to tackle the oil spill and to prevent the threat to the unique ecosystem in the region :—